

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230537
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 H-01 SAA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN/MPH
APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN
AF/E:RBAYER
H:RAFLATEN

-----092059 121756Z /64

P R 121546Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, UG

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON ISRAELI FIRM PROVIDING
PLANES FOR UGANDA

1. WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 11 CARRIES STORY DATED LONDON HEADLINED "UGANDAN PLANE DEAL BELIEVED KEY TO ISRAELI SPY OPERATION." IN SHORT THE STORY SAYS AN ISRAELI FIRM NAMED ATASCO (AIRCRAFT TRADING AND SERVICES INC.), HEADQUARTERED IN TEL AVIV AND OWNED BY "ELUSIVE ISRAELI ENTREPRENEUR" SHAUL EISENBERG, IS LEASING TWO BOEING 707S TO UGANDA AIRLINES WHICH ARE BEING USED TO FLY UGANDAN COFFEE AND OFFICIALS TO EUROPE AND BRING BACK IMPORTS. PLANES STOP EN ROUTE AT BENGHAZI AND CREWS FILE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, WHICH ARE SHARED AMONG ISRAELI,
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BRITISH AND US INTELLIGENCE, ON WHAT THEY LEARN DURING THE STOPOVER. FINAL TWIST, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, IS THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE THE PLANES ARE BEING USED FOR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND HAS ITS AGENTS PROVIDE CREWS WITH APPROPRIATE "DISINFORMATION."

2. DEPARTMENT HAS HAD INQUIRIES ON THIS STORY, INCLUDING

A CALL FROM OFFICE OF SENATOR HATFIELD, WHICH HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AN ISRAELI FIRM WOULD BE PROVIDING UGANDA WITH AN AIR TRANSPORT CAPABILITY AND HOPE THAT, IF

THE STORY IS TRUE, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL TAKE STEPS TO SEVER THIS CONNECTION TO UGANDA.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER LIGHT EMBASSY CAN SHED ON WASHINGTON POST STORY. COPY OF STORY BEING POUCHED TO TEL AVIV FOR ACTING DCM.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, CIVIL AVIATION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE230537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DAKORN/MPH
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780370-1078
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1465030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON ISRAELI FIRM PROVIDING PLANES FOR UGANDA
TAGS: SOPN, PINR, EAIR, IS, UG
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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